

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 466 971

SO 034 011

TITLE Nepal: Civic and Voter Education. Quarterly Reports, 2001.
INSTITUTION National Democratic Inst. for International Affairs,
Washington, DC.
SPONS AGENCY Agency for International Development (IDCA), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE 2001-00-00
NOTE 42p.
CONTRACT 367-G-00-00097-00
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Tests/Questionnaires (160)
EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Citizen Participation; *Citizenship Education; Democracy;
Developing Nations; Foreign Countries; Program Descriptions
IDENTIFIERS *Nepal; Political Awareness; Program Review; *Voter Education

ABSTRACT

The lack of confidence the people of Nepal feel about their political process is due, in part, to the majority's unfamiliarity with, and lack of participation in, their democratic institutions. Since 1994, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has been partaking in a broader national effort to increase Nepalis contributions to their governing bodies. In July 2000, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), NDI began civic and voter education programs in Nepal. These programs aim to inform the Nepalis about how their government and electoral system work as well as encourage them to get involved in their political process. NDI conducted a variety of civic education related activities, including: (1) building the capacity of a local civics group; (2) meeting with an advisory board of organizations and individuals working to improve civic education in Nepal; (3) drafting civic education materials; (4) conducting a benchmark survey; (5) coordinating among donors, government agencies, and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) addressing civic education related activities; (6) completing the civic education textbook and teacher's guide; and (7) conducting training of trainer's workshops. The NDI also conducted voter education related activities that included: (1) meeting with the Coordination Committee of organizations working to increase the level of voter education programming; (2) writing and producing radio shows; (3) producing and distributing a resource manual and voter education booklets; (4) introducing election officials to the training sessions for officials and the forum materials that will be used in election-related training; and (5) holding district and constituency level voter education forums. (BT)

**Nepal: Civic and Voter Participation.
Quarterly Reports, 2001.**

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Quarterly Report
NEPAL: CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION
USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 367-G-00-00097-00
January 1 to March 31, 2001

I. SUMMARY

Although many Nepalis had high expectations that democracy would bring prosperity and development to their country, some have come to realize that without an active and informed citizenry, democracy will be unresponsive to citizens' needs. The lack of confidence Nepalis feel about their political process is due, in part, to the majority's unfamiliarity with and lack of participation in their democratic institutions. Since 1994, NDI has been partaking in a broader national effort to increase Nepalis contribution to their governing bodies. In July 2000 with funding from USAID, NDI began civic and voter education programs in Nepal. These programs intend to inform Nepalis about how their government and electoral system work as well as encourage them to get involved in their political process.

During this quarter, the Institute conducted a variety of civic education related activities, including: 1) building the capacity of a local civics group; 2) meeting with an Advisory Board of organizations and individuals working to improve civic education in Nepal; 3) drafting civic education materials; 4) conducting a benchmark survey; and 5) coordinating among donors, government agencies and local NGOs addressing civic education related activities.

Also during this quarter, the Institute conducted a number of voter education related activities, including: 1) meeting with the Coordination Committee of organizations working to increase the level of voter education programming; 2) writing and producing radio shows; 3) producing and distributing a resource manual and voter education booklets; 4) introducing election officials to the training sessions for officials and the forum materials that will be used in election-related trainings; and 5) holding district level voter education forums.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Civic Education

Nepalis receive little, if any, civics training in school. As a result, the adult population in Nepal often lacks the necessary foundation for becoming active and informed citizens in their democracy. To address this gap in the education system, key leaders in Nepal's education community have been working to introduce civics training in school curricula. Resulting from this initiative, many schools around the country now offer an elective civic education course.

Unfortunately, many schools are lacking the materials for the course and the teaching staff to properly convey the civics materials to students.

In response to and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Higher Secondary Education Board, the Nepali Foundation for Advanced Studies (NEFAS), academics and local and political leaders, NDI is producing and distributing civic education materials that will be used for the *Contemporary Society* course as well as by political and civic leaders throughout the country. The Institute is also preparing to conduct interactive workshops to inform civic and political leaders and teaching professionals about the contents of the materials as well as how to effectively use these materials to relay civic messages to others.

The re-working of this text has altered the timeline for executing the civic education-training program. NDI now expects the materials to be completed by the end of April 2001. The training of trainers program will be held in May 2001 and the other workshops will continue to take place through July 2001.

B. Voter Education

Although materials about Nepal's election laws and polling practices have already been produced and distributed throughout Nepal, they are targeted for highly educated citizens. Because approximately 70% of Nepalis are illiterate, many of the materials cannot be easily communicated to an adequate number of voters. As a result, the majority of citizens know very little about how the electoral process works or what role citizens can play in ensuring credible and fair elections. Furthermore, many of the local civic and political leaders are unaware of their responsibilities during the polling process. These circumstances have led to violations of the Election Code of Conduct, which is intended to prevent voter intimidation, vote buying, illicit fundraising and spending, and electioneering at the polling stations.

Within this context, NDI, in close consultation with the Election Commission, is conducting a nation-wide voter education program intended to increase citizens' awareness and participation in the electoral process. The Institute's activities will target the general public, with specific outreach to women, individuals from the lower castes, as well as district leaders involved in elections. Through material production and distribution, discussion forums and radio programs, NDI will relay messages about voters' rights and responsibilities, election officials' duties, voter registration, the Election Code of Conduct and the procedures for reporting election-related violations. The program will also include messages about the benefits of participation in the democratic process.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Civic Education

Building the Capacity of a Local Civics Group

In addition to work outlined in the program proposal, NDI has been working with the Society for the Promotion of Civic Education (SPCE), a local NGO, to build its capacity to carry on civic programming in Nepal when NDI's activities are complete. In an effort to transfer skills to the SPCE, the Institute has involved the SPCE in many aspects of its programming including designing and implementing the benchmark survey and drafting the civics education materials. NDI has also assisted the SPCE in fundraising.

The president of the SPCE, Dr. Trailokya Nath Upreti, is the former Nepali Ambassador to France. Other high level members include the chair of Tribhuvan University's education department, principals and respected academics. The organization's mission is to promote knowledge, skills and attitudes among Nepali youth conducive to effective participation in civic life.

Meeting with Advisory Board

NDI has been holding regular meetings with the Advisory Board, consisting of influential Nepalis in the education community, in order to seek their input on the program design and implementation. Recently, the Advisory Board reviewed the program and material production timeline, the draft civic education materials, NDI's work with the SPCE as well as the design and implementation of the upcoming interactive workshops.

Drafting Civic Education Materials

Although NDI has worked in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung FES and NEFAS to draft civic education materials for the *Contemporary Society* course, the Institute has played the primary role in editing the materials. The first draft is complete and NDI has incorporated comments from at least 10 Nepali and foreign professionals in the education community, including adding pictures and completing the initial formatting of the documents. In the upcoming weeks, the Institute will send the materials for review to other professionals in the civics and education community and prepare the materials for final printing. When the materials are perfected, NDI will translate them into Nepali utilizing these materials during the interactive workshops for civic and political leaders and teaching professionals. In addition to disbursing materials during the workshops, NDI will disseminate the materials strategically throughout the districts.

Conducting a Benchmark Survey

In recent weeks, NDI, in collaboration with a representative from the SPCE conducted a benchmark survey to gain additional insight into the knowledge level of future workshop participants. The survey inquired into participants' understanding of civic education, their professional experience, usual techniques of relaying educational information to others and their

interest in learning more about civics. NDI Program Officer Dipendra Tamang tested the survey in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts. After making minor edits, he and an SPCE representative spent five days in Pokhara and surrounding areas interviewing potential program participants. NDI is now compiling the findings of the survey and preparing a report.

Coordinating Donors, Government Agencies and Local NGOs

On January 18, NDI organized the second Civic Education Coordination meeting at the American Center. The meeting brought together various INGOs, government agencies and local NGOs working in the field of civics and education. The main agenda of the meeting was to share information about ongoing programs and to develop a more comprehensive strategy for introducing civic education into schools and communities throughout Nepal.

All participating members agreed to formally name the working group the *Civic Education Initiative in Nepal*. The members also decided to create an e-mail list serve that can assist in communication efforts between members, to develop resource library of civic education materials that all groups can access and a group web site. The web site will serve as a place to house the resource library and to find out what organizations are working in the field of civics, their contact information and a calendar of upcoming events. NDI has already begun designing and implementing these systems.

Participants decided that *Civic Education Initiative* participants would meet every three months. NDI is working with the SPCE to prepare it for continuing the coordination effort once NDI's program ends.

B. Voter Education Program

Meeting with the Coordinating Committee

NDI has held several rounds of meetings with the Coordination Committee, a group formed to provide input on voter education program activities. During these meetings committee members discussed the logistical preparations and participant lists for the 15 district forums as well as the design of the materials.

Writing and Producing Radio Shows

The Institute submitted a draft of radio drama scripts to the Election Commission for review and received formal approval. NDI has completed translation of these dramas into nine local languages (in addition to Nepali) and is working with the artists and radio studio to produce the scripts. NDI plans to broadcast these dramas throughout the country. The dramas will relay messages about: 1) citizens' constitutional rights regarding elections; 2) the voter registration and identity card process; 3) voting procedures; 4) citizens' rights and responsibilities in a democratic society; and 5) the Election Code of Conduct, including protest and claims procedures.

Producing and Distributing a Resource Manual and Voter Education Booklet

NDI submitted a draft resource manual and voter education booklet to the Election Commission for suggestions and feedback. The manual is also intended as an ongoing resource for district election officers, political party leaders, civil society leaders and other critical players in the election process.

NDI also submitted a draft voter education booklet to the Election Commission for formal approval. Once the Election Commission approved the booklet, NDI began printing it. The Institute is distributing these booklets primarily through district election offices but will also offer them to political and civic leaders where feasible. The voter education booklet includes easy-to-understand summaries of pertinent election laws, information about how to register and vote and the importance of elections.

Introducing Election Officers to the Forum Materials and Program Format

On February 15-16, NDI held an Orientation Program in Kathmandu for district election officers to familiarize the officers with their roles as resource people in preparation for the district level forums. The main objective of the program was to train election officers on how to run the forums in their respective districts. The program was covered by national television.

Holding District Level Forums

Following the initial orientation of district election officers, NDI conducted two pilot forums in Rupandehi and Lalitpur districts. The main objective of the pilot forums was to test the effectiveness of the forums' design and get feedback and suggestions on the draft booklet. All invited participants attended, including more than 50 women and men participants. In Rupandehi participants included the District Chief Judge, the Chief District Officer, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, local level civic and political leaders, the District Election Officer and staff of the district election office. More than 45 participants in Lalitpur came including the District Development Committee (DDC) Chair, the Chief District Officer, local level civic and political leaders, the District Election Officer and staff from the district election office. NDI was pleased to welcome USAID Program Officer Bishnu Adhikari to the Lalitpur forum as well.

NDI did achieve good balance from the major political parties at the forums, and this will continue to be an ongoing objective for the Institute during upcoming forums. Participants filled out pre and post forum questionnaires developed by NDI. The participant's evaluation (both written and oral) gave positive comments on virtually all aspects of the forums. They also highly praised the resource manual used during the forum. The forums were covered by national television and radio and featured in a number of local newspapers.

NDI is currently working on the logistical preparations for the upcoming 13 forums.

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. Civic Education

- Materials for the civic education workshops are being finalized and are close to being ready for widespread distribution.
- Using the benchmark survey, the Institute has gained helpful information that will add to the effective implementation of the interactive workshops.
- NDI's coordinating effort has permitted participating organizations to share information and discuss ways to cooperate. The Institute has designed mechanisms that will hopefully facilitate coordination between government agencies and international and local NGOs.
- The Institute is continuing to build strong relationships with local organizations and government agencies involved in civics and education.

B. Voter Education

- The Election Commission is engaged in outreach work to educate Nepalis about elections.
- The 20 radio dramas have successfully been written, are being produced, and will begin broadcast beginning on May 5 and continue running on a weekly basis (20 weeks).
- The Election Commission formally approved the resource manual, the Institute has now printed 1,500 copies of the manual, which will be distributed to participants during the forums and used as a centerpiece for forum discussion, an additional 28,800 copies will be produced for distribution to the general public.
- NDI is continuing to build strong relationships with Election Commission officials. District Election Offices are being strengthened, increasing their profile in the community and building good relations with civic and political leaders.
- 30 participants attended NDI's forum for election officers including the Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Section Officers of the Central Election Commission as well as 15 District Election Officers.

IV. EVALUATION/CONCLUSIONS

In keeping with the goals of the proposal, the work this quarter has addressed the following objectives:

Objective: To promote awareness of democratic norms and human rights in Nepal.

In Nepal, before engaging in advocacy and awareness campaigns on democracy and human rights, it has been necessary to create a user-friendly resource that outlines these democratic principles. NDI and other Nepali civil society organizations have been engaged in the creation of materials that will be used in a training of trainers program for civic educators. NDI has held coordinating meetings among the groups working on this civic education program. NDI has worked to address democratic norms and human rights in Nepal despite delays in the publication of these materials. Subsequently, NDI will be conducting these trainings during the next quarter.

Objective: To work collaboratively with Nepali agencies to increase the population's general knowledge of the electoral system.

This quarter, NDI worked to increase the public's knowledge of the electoral system by facilitating the development of election education activities run by the Election Commissioner. Voter education workshops are being conducted for election officers in 15 districts throughout the country. Additionally, NDI will reach a broad number of Nepalis through radio dramas on voter education that will begin in May. In order to answer the questions of election officials and voters about election law, NDI has been involved with the production of an election manual, which will be distributed to serve as a user-friendly resource guide to officials and voters. Through the production of new resource materials, educational election radio programs and trainings for election officials NDI has been using its multi-strategy approach to engage with Nepali agencies in the effort to increase the public's knowledge about the electoral system.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In order to address the objectives outlined for this grant in the proposal, NDI will continue to engage in civic and voter education activities. During the next quarter, NDI will finalize the civic education materials and begin to conduct the civic education workshops for trainers. NDI will also hold the third coordinating meeting bringing organizations together to foster collaboration and community planning for civic education programs. For the voter education program, the Institute will begin the airing of the 20 new radio programs and complete 13 additional district forums.



Quarterly Report
NEPAL: CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION
USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 367-G-00-00097-00
April 1 to June 30, 2001

I. SUMMARY

Although many Nepalis had high expectations that democracy would bring prosperity and development to their country, some have come to realize that without an active and informed citizenry, democracy will be unresponsive to citizens' needs. The lack of confidence Nepalis feel about their political process is due, in part, to the majority's unfamiliarity with and lack of participation in their democratic institutions. Since 1994, NDI has been partaking in a broad national effort to increase Nepalis' contribution to their governing bodies. In July 2000, with funding from USAID, NDI began civic and voter education programs in Nepal. These programs are designed to increase Nepalis' knowledge about the Nepali government and electoral systems, as well as to encourage broad, informed participation in the political process.

During this quarter, the Institute conducted a variety of civic education related activities, including: 1) coordinating meetings with donors, government agencies and local NGOs; 2) writing training materials; 3) completing the civic education textbook and teacher's guide; 4) conducting a training of trainer's workshop; and 5) planning and conducting training workshops and holding meetings.

Also during this quarter, the Institute conducted a number of voter education related activities, including: 1) meeting with the Coordination Committee; 2) producing and broadcasting radio shows; 3) producing and distributing resource manuals and voter education booklets; and 4) holding district level forums.

II. Background

A. Political Background

Democracy was restored to Nepal in 1990 after The People's Movement forced the king to relinquish absolute powers. As a result, a constitutional monarchy was formed. The 1999 general elections brought a majority government to power, while an ongoing Maoist insurgency remains a threat to Nepal's stability. Since the restoration of democracy, Nepalis have made considerable strides towards increasing the accountability and transparency of their political institutions and consolidating democratic practices.

On June 1, at least 10 members of Nepal's royal family were killed in the palace. Following the deaths of King Birendra and Crown Prince Dipendra, King Birendra's brother, Gyanendra, took the crown. During this transition period, street protests flared and curfews were imposed in Kathmandu and in other areas around the country. Because of this political unrest and insecurity, NDI's training workshops and activities were temporarily postponed.

B. Civic Education

Nepalis receive little, if any, civics training in school. As a result, the adult population in Nepal often lacks the necessary foundation for becoming active and informed citizens in their democracy. To address this gap in the education system, key leaders in Nepal's education community have been working to introduce civics training in school curriculums. As a result of their initiative, many schools around the country are now offering an elective civic education course entitled *Contemporary Society*. Unfortunately, many of the classes do not have materials for the course nor are the teachers familiar enough with civics to effectively relay the lessons to students.

In response to and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Higher Secondary Education Board (HSEB), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), academicians, local and political leaders, NDI produced and is distributing civic education materials that will be used by teachers and local civic leaders for the *Contemporary Society* course. The Institute is also conducting interactive workshops and holding receptions to inform teaching professionals and civic and political leaders about the contents of the materials as well as how to effectively use these materials to relay civic messages to others.

National political disturbances slightly altered the timeline for executing the civic education training workshops. (*Please see Appendix A: Revised Workshop Schedule.*)

C. Voter Education

Although some materials about Nepal's election laws and polling practices have already been produced and distributed in Nepal, they are targeted at highly educated citizens. Because approximately 70 percent of Nepalis are illiterate, many of the materials cannot be easily communicated to an adequate number of voters. As a result, the majority of citizens know very little about how the electoral process works or how citizens can play a role in ensuring credible and fair elections. The Election Commission's (EC) establishment of 30 district offices is a positive development, which will provide Nepalis with greater access to the local election administration. However, these offices and their staff are in need of capacity building, and the citizenry in these districts need information about the role of the district offices and how the public can utilize their services. Furthermore, many of the local civic and political leaders are unaware of their responsibilities during the polling process. These circumstances have led to violations of the Election Code of Conduct, which is intended to prevent voter intimidation, vote buying, illicit fundraising and spending, and electioneering at the polling stations.

Within this context, NDI, in collaboration with the EC and district election offices, is conducting district level forums in 15 districts, which will bring together 450 political and civic

leaders, as well as district election officials. The Institute is also conducting an extensive voter education program intended to increase citizens' awareness of and participation in the electoral process. The Institute's activities will target the general public, and will include outreach to women and various ethnic groups, as well as district leaders involved in elections. Through material production and distribution, discussion forums and radio programs, NDI will relay messages about voters' rights and responsibilities, election officials' duties, voter registration, the Election Code of Conduct and the procedures for reporting election-related violations. The program also includes general messages about the benefits of participating in the democratic process.

The timeline for executing the voter education discussion forums has been altered slightly by political disturbances. *(Please see Appendix B: Revised Forum Schedule.)*

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Civic Education

Coordinating Meetings with Donors, Government Agencies and Local NGOs

On April 16, 2001, NDI, in cooperation with the American Center, organized the third Civic Education Coordination meeting. The meeting brought together various INGOs, government agencies and local NGOs working in the field of civics and education. The main agenda of the meeting was to share information among participants about ongoing programs and to develop a more comprehensive strategy for introducing civic education into schools and communities throughout Nepal. Participants represented groups such as Society for the Promotion of Civic Education, Social Studies Society, Center for Studies on Democracy and Good Governance and United Mission to Nepal, the Political Science Association, Secondary Education Project, and the American Center. All the participating members agreed to develop an advocacy group in order to encourage donors and government agencies to support civic education programs in Nepal. Participants formed a committee to design a schedule for a civic education expert from the US who was brought to Nepal by the American Center in early June. (Unfortunately, due to political disturbances this expert was unable to conduct any of the scheduled meetings or activities and returned to the United States shortly after arriving in Nepal.) This committee was formed with our partner NGO, the Society for the Promotion of Civic Education (SPCE). Work on establishing an advocacy group is ongoing.

Writing Training Materials for the Workshops

NDI worked with Christine Stone, a very experienced teacher, trainer, and textbook writer who has been working in Nepal for 21 years, to draft a training manual for the interactive workshops. Upon completion, the Institute printed 90 copies of the manual. The manual is based on the textbook and teacher's guide and is intended to be used in combination with the texts. The manual consists of a 2-day agenda, training tips and a detailed training plan that includes activities to get the teachers interested in the new training methodologies. The training program allows time for teachers to discuss the benefits of such methodologies and practice

using these new techniques. It includes exercises contained within the textbook and teachers' guide as well as additional activities to help build teachers' confidence levels. (*Please see Appendix C: Civics in Nepal training manual.*)

Completing the Civic Education Materials

Although NDI worked in cooperation with partners to draft the civic education textbook and teacher's guide for the *Contemporary Society* course, the Institute played the primary role in writing the materials. Once NDI finished the first draft of the materials, the Institute received feedback from experts in the education and political communities in Nepal and abroad to give comments. Following the incorporation of these comments, NDI edited and formatted the books. NDI printed 4,000 copies of the textbook and 900 copies of the teacher's guide and began using them in the training workshops. The Institute also distributed copies to donors, government agencies, local civic related nongovernmental organizations and Nepali academics. NDI is now translating the books into Nepali. (*Please see Appendix D: Civics in Nepal textbook and teacher's guide.*)

The textbook totals about 180 pages while the accompanying teacher's manual is approximately 60 pages in length. The textbook is filled with pictures, games and activities and designed to encourage students to think for themselves and analyze issues. The books cover topics that include: Nepal's social history, how democracy works, the benefits that can be gained from democratic government, women's participation in politics, human rights as it relates to Nepali citizens and how to think through and develop effective responses to social problems in Nepal. Students will learn about democracy through interactive exercises where they identify problems in their communities, discuss ways to solve these problems, meet with political officials, practice public speaking, debate issues and practice various ways of lobbying government officials.

Conducting a Training-of-Trainers Workshop

Although political disturbances delayed NDI's initiation of the training-of-trainers sessions, the Institute began its program, in coordination with partner agencies, on June 1. The workshop was designed to teach the Institute's four trainers, who will be conducting the 13 teacher training workshops, teaching methodologies and familiarize them with the materials. In addition, the Institute invited civic leaders, teachers and principals from local schools to attend training in an effort to further promote the course, textbook and new participatory teaching methodologies that can be used for the *Contemporary Society* course and other courses.

16 teachers, principals, teacher trainers from government agencies (such as the HSEB and the Curriculum Development Center) and NGO leaders attended the workshop. Throughout the two days, attendees participated in a variety of games and activities. Participants were given time to design and teach their own lesson plans and discuss effective questions to ask in class. During the workshop, participants became more familiar with the text and teacher's guide and learned captivating ways to teach the books and engage students' interest.

Planning and Conducting Training Workshops and Meetings

Following the training-of-trainer's workshops, NDI began conducting teacher-training workshops in Pokhara on June 18. The Institute organized the workshops in cooperation with the HSEB, who assisted in selecting locations, sending out invitations and identifying participants. More than 35 teachers and principals from Parwat, Baglung, Kaski, Pokhara, Tanahun, Gorkha, Syanja and Palpa districts attended each of the three workshops held in Pokhara. In addition, the Vice Chairman, Member-Secretary and Acting Director of the curriculum department from the HSEB attended and made brief presentations to welcome participants and offer their support for the program. Two trainers who participated in the training-of-trainers program led the workshops in Pokhara. During each workshop, they repeated the lessons and activities that were conducted during the training-of-trainers program. NDI designed pre- and post-workshop questionnaires that the Institute is requesting workshop participants to complete. (*Please see Appendix E: Workshop Questionnaires.*) These questionnaires will assist the Institute during its evaluation of the program.

NDI held a meeting for approximately 14 civic and political leaders and media representatives; this first meeting was held in Pokhara on June 23. The goal of these meetings is to increase local support for the *Contemporary Society* course and advertise the textbook and new training methodologies. The Vice Chairman, Member Secretary and Acting Director of Curriculum from HSEB praised the textbooks and teaching methodology and discussed the need for the expansion of civic education curriculum through school curricula. The Institute also received a great deal of positive feedback for its efforts to coordinate and collaborate with HSEB. Additionally, there was discussion of how to expand the number of schools using the *Contemporary Society* curriculum.

B. Voter Education Program

Meeting with the Coordinating Committee

NDI has held several rounds of meetings with the Coordination Committee, a group formed to provide input on voter education program activities. During these meetings, committee members discussed the logistical preparations and participant lists for the 15 district forums as well as the design of the materials and forums. Committee members additionally finalized the list of the resource persons for the 15 district forums.

Producing and Broadcasting Radio Shows

The Institute wrote, produced, and began broadcasting 20 radio episodes of five-minute mini dramas throughout the country in nine local languages (in addition to Nepali). The dramas relay messages about: 1) citizens' constitutional rights regarding elections; 2) the voter registration and identity card process; 3) voting procedures; 4) citizens' rights and responsibilities in a democratic society; and 5) the Election Code of Conduct, including protest and claims procedures. These dramas began being broadcasted on May 5, 2001 from Radio Nepal's central and regional broadcasting centers. The dramas are being aired once a week in each language. Running for 20 weeks, the total airtime will be 1,000 minutes. Radio is estimated to reach up to

80 percent of Nepali citizens and is a particularly effective means of reaching the illiterate population.

Producing and Distributing Resource Manuals and Voter Education Booklets

After formal approval by the EC, NDI printed 1,500 copies of a comprehensive Resource Manual, which provides summaries of pertinent election laws relevant to the forum participant groups. The manual serves as a focus for discussion during the district forums, but more importantly, it is designed to provide an ongoing resource for election officials, political party leaders, civic activists, and other critical players in the election process.

The EC formally approved a draft voter education booklet submitted by NDI. The Institute printed 20,000 copies of a voter education booklet, containing easy to understand messages aimed at the general public. The booklet relies heavily on illustrations to convey information to the semi-literate public. The Institute is distributing these booklets primarily through district election offices but also provides them to reliable political and civic leaders for distribution. By July 2001, NDI will have distributed up to 20,000 copies of this booklet. The voter education booklet includes easy-to-understand summaries of pertinent election laws, information about how to register and vote and the importance of elections.

Holding District Level Forums

NDI conducted an orientation of district election officers and two pilot forums in Rupandehi and Lalitpur districts during the previous reporting period. Based on feedback from these events, NDI began its planning for 13 district discussion forums. Ten of these forums were completed during this reporting period. These districts include: Kanchanpur, Kailali, Doti, Rautahat, Makwanpur, Dhankuta, Morang, Saptari Kaski and Dang. Participants were selected in consultation with the central and district election commissions, political parties, and the district level NGO federations.

Special efforts were made to include women and care was taken to ensure political party balance. The forums were targeted to accommodate 30 participants each. NDI did achieve good balance from the major political parties at the forums, and this will continue to be an ongoing objective for the Institute during upcoming forums. Of the total 357 participants in those 11 districts, 23 percent of the participants were women.

The vast majority of invited participants attended each forum. In all the districts, participants included local level civic and political leaders, district and local government officials, the District Election Officer, and the staff of the district election office. The District Chief Judge, the District Development Chair, the Chief District Officer, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Superintendent of Police, and the Deputy Superintendent of Police were invited to attend the inaugural sessions in all the district forums, and most of these officials did attend in each district. Member of Parliament Mrigendra Kumar Singh of the Nepal Sadbhawana Party attended the forum in Saptari District. NDI was pleased to welcome USAID Democracy and Governance Program Manager Bishnu Adhikari and USAID Program Officer Bhuwan Pratap K. C. to the Doti forum.

Participants filled out pre- and post- forum questionnaires. (*Please see Appendix F: Forum Questionnaires.*) The participants' written and oral evaluations provided positive comments on virtually all aspects of the forums. The resource manual used during the forum was highly praised. The forums were covered by national television and radio and featured in a number of national and local newspapers.

NDI is currently working on logistical preparations for the final three forums, which were originally scheduled for June, but were postponed to July due to the tragedy surrounding the Royal Family.

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In keeping with the goals of the proposal, the work this quarter has addressed the following objectives:

Objective: To work collaboratively with Nepali agencies to increase the population's general knowledge of the electoral system.

Objective: To promote awareness of democratic norms and human rights in Nepal.

A. Civic Education

- Materials for the civic education workshops were completed in coordination with NDI's partner organization and have been distributed to Nepali academics, teachers, principals, donors and civic related NGOs.
- NDI successfully completed the training-of-trainers program, three teacher-training workshops and one reception to promote these new training materials and methods.
- NDI's coordinating effort resulted in participating organizations sharing information and discussing ways to cooperate.
- Meetings held with donors, political leaders and civic groups are helping to garner support for future civic education related programming in Nepali schools.
- The Institute is continuing to build strong relationships with local organizations and government agencies involved in civics and education.
- Interest in NDI's current civic education program has spawned wide discussion among Nepali of the need to multiply civic education curriculum in the Nepalese education system.

B. Voter Education

- The Election Commission is engaged in outreach work to educate Nepalis about elections.
- The production of 20 radio dramas was completed and began broadcasting on May 5 and continues running on a weekly basis and will continue for 20 weeks.
- The Election Commission formally approved the resource manual, and NDI printed 1,500 copies of it. The Institute is distributing the manual to participants during the forums and using it as a centerpiece for forum discussion.
- The Election Commission formally approved the voter education booklet, and the Institute printed 20,000 copies of it as well as distributed the booklet to the general public primarily through district election offices.
- NDI successfully completed ten district forums in Kanchanpur, Kailali, Doti, Rautahat, Makwanpur, Dhankuta, Morang, Saptari Kaski and Dang, and is preparing for the final three to be held in July.
- District forums have been well attended and received positive feedback from different levels of government from.

V. EVALUATION/CONCLUSIONS

Civic Education

NDI's civic education program has been very successful so far. The Institute has built close relationships with its local partners and received a great deal of positive feedback from Nepali academics, civic leaders, government representatives, teachers and principals on the effectiveness of the civic education materials and the usefulness of the training workshops. Our partners in the country are pleased to be working with us and regularly seek our feedback and advice. Through meetings and distribution of materials, NDI has helped to inspire interest and commitment among donors, government agencies and local NGOs for introducing formal and informal civic education programs throughout Nepal. The coordinating effort among donors, government agencies and local groups working in the field of civic education has been successful so far. There is always good attendance at the meetings and a large amount of interest in the effort.

Voter Education

By broadcasting radio shows and distributing voter education booklets, NDI is helping to increase the public's knowledge of the electoral system. NDI built close relationships with local level NGOs and district election offices during the implementation of the forums. District election offices are being strengthened, increasing their profile in the community and building good relations with civic and political leaders. The Institute is continuing to receive positive feedback from forum participants and requests to extend the program to additional districts and

to lower levels. NDI also continues to receive praise from forum participants and the general public for the materials and requests for additional handbooks and manuals.

VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

To address the objectives outlined for this grant in the proposal, NDI will continue to engage in civic and voter education activities. For the civic education program, NDI will complete its teacher training workshops and hold two additional receptions, in Lahan and Biratnagar districts. The Institute also plans to work with our local partner, SPCE, to hold a book-launching event in Kathmandu where the Deputy Speaker and former Nepali Ambassador to France will be the keynote speakers. Finally, NDI plans to hold one more coordinating event at the end of July. For the voter education program, NDI will continue airing the radio programs, complete three additional district forums and begin an evaluation of the program. The Institute looks to expand upon the network basis it has established and continue to engage in further civic and voter education related democracy programming.

NDI/NEPAL
Civic Education Workshops
(June 18 to July 30, 2001)

Date		Number and Districts	Venue	Districts Invited
June 18-19 Monday-Tuesday	Aashar 4-5	1 st workshop in Pokhara	Kanya Campus	Parwat, Baglung
June 20-21 Wednesday-Thursday	Aashar 6-7	2 nd workshop in Pokhara	Kanya Campus	Kaski-Tanahun
June 22-23 Friday-Saturday	Aashar 8-9	3 rd workshop in Pokhara	Kanya Campus	Gorkha-Syanja-Palpa
June 28-29 Thursday-Friday	Aashar 14-15	4 th workshop in Biratnagar	Aadarsha Vidhyalaya	Morang, Ilam
July 1-2 Sunday-Monday	Aashar 17-18	5 th workshop in Biratnagar	Aadarsha Vidhyalaya	Jhapa
July 4-5 Wednesday-Thursday	Aashar 20-21	6 th workshop in Biratnagar	Aadarsha Vidhyalaya	Sunsari, Terathum, Dhankuta
July 12-13 Thursday-Friday	Aashar 28-29	7 th workshop in Lahan	Shree Pashupati Aadarsha Madhyamik Vidhyalaya	Dhanusha, Sindhuli
July 15-16 Sunday-Monday	Aashar 31 Shrawan 1	8 th workshop in Lahan	Shree Pashupati Aadarsha Madhyamik Vidhyalaya	Sarlahi, Mahottari, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat

July 18-19 Wednesday-Thursday	Shrawan 3-4	9 th workshop in Lahan	Shree Pashupati Aadarsha Madhyamik Vidhyalaya	Siraha, Saptari, Udaypur, Khotang, Okhaldhunga
Date	Number and Districts	Venue	Districts Invited	
July 23-24 Monday-Tuesday	Shrawan 8-9	10 th workshop in Kathmandu	To be announced	Kathmandu
July 25-26 Wednesday-Thursday	Shrawan 10-11	11 th workshop in Kathmandu	To be announced	Kathmandu-Lalitpur
July 27-28 Friday-Saturday	Shrawan 12-13	12 th workshop in Kathmandu	To be announced	Lalitpur, Bhaktapur
July 29-30 Sunday-Monday	Shrawan 14-15	13 th workshop in Kathmandu	To be announced	Dolakha, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchowk

Updated June 11, 2001

Appendix B

NDI/NEPAL
Voter Education Program

Revised Forum Schedule (Mid-Western Districts)

Date		District	No. of participants	Resource Person
June 28-29	Asad 14-15	Dang	30	Mr. Chinyanarayan Shrestha, Under Secretary, EC Mr. Yamlal Adhikari, Section Officer, EC
July 1-2	Asad 17-18	Banke	30	Mr. Chinyanarayan Shrestha, Under Secretary, EC Mr. Yamlal Adhikari, Section Officer, EC
July 4-5	Asad 20-21	Surkhet	30	Mr. Chinyanarayan Shrestha, Under Secretary, EC Mr. Yamlal Adhikari, Section Officer, EC
July 11-12	Asad 27-28	Palpa	30	Mr. Purusottam Sapkota, Joint Secretary, EC Mr. Lokdarshan Pandit, Section Officer, EC

Updated June 22, 2001

**NDI/NEPAL
CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Workshop Evaluation Questionnaire

Please take time to complete this form and return it to NDI before you leave. We would greatly appreciate complete responses to the questions, as this will help us to evaluate the effectiveness of this workshop and design future programs.

Please note that it is not necessary to write your name on this form. We request that you write honest comments; your responses will be kept strictly confidential.

1. Please rate the overall quality of the workshop?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

2. How beneficial did you find the workshop?

☐ Very Beneficial ☐ Beneficial ☐ Not very beneficial ☐ Not Beneficial at all

3. Did you think the workshop was fun and interesting?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Was the format and the design of the workshop effective?

☐ Very effective ☐ Effective ☐ Not very effective ☐ Not effective at all

5. Were the teaching methodologies used during the workshops different from what you are accustomed to?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, in what way?

6. Will you be using the teaching methodologies used during these workshops in the *Contemporary Society* course or in other classes in the future?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. What are the most memorable topics you learned during the workshop?
- _____
- _____
- _____
8. How do you define civic education?
- _____
- _____
- _____
9. Do you think civic education is important?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. How would you rate the textbook *Civics in Nepal*?
- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor
11. How would you rate the teacher's guide to the textbook *Civics in Nepal*?
- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor
12. What aspects of the textbook and teacher's guide do you find useful?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
13. Do you have any comments or suggestions on ways to improve the textbook and teaching manual? If so, what are they?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
14. Is Contemporary Society taught in your school already?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No" then would you want it to be taught in your school?

☐ Yes

☐ No

15. Is there anything you can do to help introduce the *Contemporary Society* course in your school?

Do you plan to perform these tasks?

☐ Yes

☐ No

NDI/NEPAL
VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pre-Forum Assessment Questionnaire

1. Personal

a. District VDC/Municipality Ward

b. Name Age..... Sex.....

c. Educational Background

- ☐ 9-SLC ☐ Intermediate ☐ Bachelors ☐ Masters
☐ Others (Specify)

d. Name of the Political Party/Organization/Government agency to which you belong:

.....

e. Your position:

f. Your main three responsibilities in this position:

1.

2.

3.

g. No. of years involved in politics/civic activities/government job.

- ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ more than 10

2. Did you play any role in the last election?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please mention your roles:

1.

2.

3.

3. What is your role in regard to the registration process?
1.
2.
3.
- ☐ I don't know
4. Name three legal or constitutional qualifications to become a voter in Nepal.
1.
2.
3.
- ☐ I don't know
5. Name three legal or constitutional qualifications to become a candidate for the Member of Parliament in Nepal.
1.
2.
3.
- ☐ I don't know
6. What are three major provisions of the election code of conduct?
1.
2.
3.
- ☐ I don't know
7. Name three major responsibilities of political parties while organizing party meetings and mass conferences?
1.
2.

3.

☐ I don't know

8. Name three effective methods of educating voters in your area regarding their rights and responsibilities.

1.

2.

3.

☐ I don't know

9. Have you received any formal training about your roles and responsibilities?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes,

Where

When

From whom

10. In your opinion, what are three steps that should be taken to make the election process more free and fair?

1.

2.

3.

☐ I don't know

11. What do you expect to learn from this two-day discussion forum?

1.

2.

3.

☐ I don't know



Quarterly Report
NEPAL: CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION
USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 367-G-00-00097-00
July 1 to September 30, 2001

I. SUMMARY

Although many Nepalis had high expectations that democracy would bring prosperity and development to their country, some have come to realize that without an active and informed citizenry, democracy will be unresponsive to citizens' needs. The lack of confidence Nepalis feel about their political process is due, in part, to the majority's unfamiliarity with and lack of participation in their democratic institutions. Since 1994, NDI has been partaking in a broad national effort to increase Nepalis contribution to their governing bodies. In July 2000 and with funding from USAID, NDI began civic and voter education programs in Nepal. These programs intend to inform Nepalis about how their government and electoral systems work as well as encourage them to get involved in their political process.

During this quarter, the Institute conducted a variety of civic education related activities, including: 1) conducting teacher training workshops; 2) printing and distributing additional textbooks and teacher's guides; 3) holding a fifth civic education coordinating meeting; 4) meeting with the advisory board; 5) holding a book launching event; and 6) preparing for seven additional teacher training workshops.

Also during this quarter, the Institute conducted voter education activities including: 1) broadcasting radio shows; 2) holding district level forums; 3) distributing a resource manual and voter education booklet; 4) conducting an evaluation of the booklet; 5) revising and printing the resource manual and booklet; 6) conducting a training of trainer's workshop; and 7) planning to hold district and constituency level forums.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Civic Education

Nepalis receive little, if any, civics training in school. As a result, the adult population in Nepal often lacks the necessary foundation for becoming active and informed citizens in their democracy. To address this gap in the education system, key leaders in Nepal's education community have been working to introduce civics training in school curriculums. As a result of their initiative, many schools around the country are now offering an elective civic education course entitled *Contemporary Society*. Unfortunately, many of the classes do not have materials for the course nor are the teachers familiar enough with civics to effectively relay the lessons to students.

In response, NDI worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Higher Secondary Education Board, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), academics and local civic and political leaders to produce a civic education textbook and teacher's guide for use in the *Contemporary Society* course. The Institute is also conducting teacher-training workshops to inform teaching professionals and civic and political leaders about the contents of the new materials as well as how to effectively use these materials to relay civic messages to students.

Upon completion of the activities proposed in the grant agreement, approximately \$40,000 remained. The Institute drafted a memo and budget for USAID outlining add-on civic education activities. These activities include seven additional teacher-training workshops in four locations, Nepalgunj, Dhangadhi, Bhairawa and Kathmandu, and will include participants from 35 neighboring districts. Approximately 35 teachers and principals are expected to attend each workshop, for a total of 245. With the remaining funds, NDI will also print 2,000 more *Civics in Nepal* textbooks and 500 teaching manuals for distribution throughout the country. The Institute, in collaboration with the American Center, will also hold a fifth coordinating meeting.

B. Voter Education

Although some materials about Nepal's election laws and polling practices have already been produced and distributed in the country, they continue to target highly educated citizens. Approximately 70 percent of Nepalis are illiterate, and thus many of the existing materials are inaccessible to an adequate number of voters. As a result, the majority of citizens know very little about how the electoral process works or what role citizens can play in ensuring credible and fair elections. In addition, the Election Commission recently established 30 district offices. However, the staff in these offices requires orientation regarding their responsibilities and the citizenry require information about the role of their district offices and how they can utilize these offices' services. Furthermore, many of the local civic and political leaders are unaware of their responsibilities during the polling process. These circumstances have led to violations in the Election Code of Conduct, which is intended to prevent voter intimidation, vote buying, illicit fundraising and spending and electioneering at the polling stations.

Throughout the previous year, NDI, in collaboration with the Election Commission and district election offices, conducted district level forums in 15 districts, bringing together 500 political and civic leaders, as well as district election officials. The Institute also conducted an extensive voter education program to increase citizens' awareness of and participation in the electoral process. The Institute's activities targeted the public, and included outreach to women and various ethnic groups, as well as district leaders involved in elections. Through material production and distribution, discussion forums and radio programs, NDI relayed messages about voters' right and responsibilities, election officials' duties, voter registration, the Election Code of Conduct and procedures for reporting election-related violations. The program also included general messages about the benefits of participating in the democratic process.

In July 2001, USAID provided NDI with a \$250,000 extension to conduct additional voter education activities. With this money, NDI will hold forums in 15 additional districts where the Election Commission has district offices. NDI will also hold workshops at the local level in five parliamentary constituencies in an effort to bring messages about voters' rights and responsibilities to more people.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Civic Education Program

Conducting Teacher Training Workshops

During this quarter and in cooperation with the Higher Secondary Education Board (HSEB), NDI conducted nine teacher-training workshops in Biratnagar, Lahan and Kathmandu. To prepare for the workshops, the HSEB assisted in selecting the training sites, drafting invitations and identifying workshop participants. NDI also hired logistics assistants in each of the three locations to help in delivering the invitations, confirming attendance, securing a caterer and fielding questions from participants.

NDI held workshops in Biratnagar from June 28 to July 5, in Lahan from July 14 to 19 and in Kathmandu from July 23 to 30. Approximately 35 teachers and principals attended each workshop and came from over 35 districts. The acting director of the curriculum department at the HSEB also attended many of the workshops to welcome participants and offer the HSEB's support for the program.

During each workshop, two trainers led participants through a variety of games and activities designed to increase their knowledge of the democratic process. Participants were given time to write and teach their own lesson plans and discuss the design of effective questions to ask in class. During the workshops, teachers and principals became more familiar with the *Civics in Nepal* textbook and teacher's guide and learned ways to teach the lessons within the books in an interesting way to students. NDI also distributed the textbook and teacher's guide to participants and had them fill-out a pre and post workshop questionnaire that NDI will use in its program evaluation.

Printing and Distributing Additional Textbooks and Teacher's Guides

To date, NDI has printed approximately 8,000 *Civics in Nepal* textbooks and 800 teachers guides. In addition to handing them out to participants at the workshops, the HSEB is distributing them to schools around the country. Principals and teachers come to the HSEB from around the nation to pick-up the books for their classes. So far, the HSEB has distributed 3,130 copies of the textbook and has requested that NDI supply them with more books.

Holding a Fifth Civic Education Coordinating Meeting

On July 18, 2001, NDI, in cooperation with the American Center, organized the fifth Civic Education Coordination meeting. The meeting brought together 30 INGO's, government agencies and local organizations working in the field of civics and education. It was designed to encourage donors to introduce civic lessons into their development projects and encourage government agencies to incorporate civics into their curriculum.

After participants introduced themselves, Society for the Promotion of Civic Education (SPCE) President Dr. Trailokya Nath Upraity and SPCE Secretary General Ramesh Prasad Guatam made presentations. They discussed the importance that civic education could play in consolidating democratic development in Nepal. They spoke of the need to introduce additional civics courses into all levels of school curriculum. Following the

presentations participants asked questions and discussed strategies for gaining additional support for civics programming in Nepal.

Meeting with the Advisory Board

NDI held a meeting with the Advisory Board, consisting of influential Nepalis in the education community, to seek their input on the program design and implementation. The Institute updated the advisors on the status of activities and discussed preparations for the Civics in Nepal book-launching event. The Advisory Board also advised NDI on where to conduct additional workshops and how to increase the numbers of schools who offer the *Contemporary Society* course.

Holding a Book Launching Event

The Institute assisted the SPCE in organizing a book-launching event to gain publicity for the new Civics in Nepal textbook and teacher's guide and demonstrate popular support for the *Contemporary Society* course. To prepare for this event, NDI assisted in drafting invitations and a program agenda and deciding the location. The Institute also prepared speeches for the United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Larry Dinger and USAID Director for the General Development Office Donna Stauffer.

The book launching was held on July 31 at 4:30 p.m. at Hotel Malla in Kathmandu. The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Honorable Chetra Lekha Yadav hosted the event. Other speakers included: Former Speaker of the House Damannath Dhungana, United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Larry Dinger, USAID Director of the General Development Office Donna Stauffer, SPCE Secretary General Ramesh Prasad Gautam, Tribhuvan University Professor Dr. Shreeram Prasad Upadhyaya, HSEB Vice Chairman Dr. Narayan Kunwar, SPCE Executive Member Dr. Shree Krishna Yadav, Tribhuvan University Professor Dr. Mana Prasad Wagle and SPCE President Dr. Trailokya Nath Upraity.

Some speakers discussed the importance of civic education for the democratic development of Nepal. Others reviewed the contents of the Civics in Nepal textbook and mentioned that the current course should be the first step in introducing a more comprehensive civic education curriculum at all school levels in Nepal. A few speakers spoke of how civic education helped to shape them to become leaders in their countries, and many of the speakers thanked NDI, USAID and the United States Embassy for their efforts to promote civic education in Nepal.

Approximately 80 political leaders, teachers, principals, civic leaders and media representatives attended the launching. The event was broadcast on national television news that evening and written about in local papers the following day.

Preparing for Seven Additional Teacher-Training Workshops

NDI is now preparing to conduct seven additional teacher-training workshops in Nepalgunj, Dhangadhi, Bhairawa and Kathmandu. To prepare, NDI met with representatives of the HSEB to coordinate assistance in the drafting and distributing of invitations, selecting participants and schools and identifying training sites. NDI also hired a logistics coordinator

to assist in the implementation of the workshops and made arrangements with the same trainers who led previous workshops to continue training during the upcoming ones.

B. Voter Education Program

Broadcasting Radio Shows

The Institute continued broadcasting radio episodes of five-minute mini dramas throughout the country in Nepali and in nine local languages. The dramas began their broadcasts on May 5 from Radio Nepal's central and regional broadcasting centers and will end on October 7. At that time, 20 episodes in each language will have been aired, for a total of 1,000 minutes of airtime.

Holding District Level Forums

During this reporting period, NDI conducted district level forums in Banke, Surkhet and Palpa. The Institute organized the forums in collaboration with the Election Commission and the district election offices, which assisted in selecting venues, sending out invitations and identifying participants. More than 30 participants attended each forum.

In all the districts, participants included local level civic and political leaders, district and local government officials, the district election officer and the staff of the district election office. The District Chief Judge, the District Development Chair, the Chief District Officer and the Mayor were invited to attend the inaugural sessions and most attended. They highly praised the resource manual used during the forum. The forums were covered by national television and radio and featured in a number of national and local newspapers.

NDI achieved good balance from the major political parties at the forums, and this will continue to be an ongoing objective for the Institute during upcoming programs. Approximately 23% of participants were women.

Distributing a Resource Manual and Voter Education Booklet

NDI distributed a resource manual and voter education booklet to all forum participants. To date, the Institute printed and distributed 1,500 copies of the resource manual and 20,000 copies of the booklet. The Institute is distributing these booklets primarily through the Election Commission and district election offices but is also offering them to political and civic leaders for distribution where feasible. District Election Officers are distributing these booklets during the seminars organized by different NGOs in their respective districts.

On September 11, with the help of the Training Division of the Election Commission, the Institute distributed 60 copies of the resource manual and voter education booklet to students and teachers of the secondary schools of Kavrepalanchowk and Palpa districts. These students were in Kathmandu to participate in the 35-day training on the "Library Project for Strengthening Democracy". The students and teachers visited the Election Commission to get information on the electoral system in Nepal and to pick-up the Commission's publications. They highly praised the resource manual and booklet.

Conducting an Evaluation of the Booklet

NDI, in collaboration with district election officers, conducted an evaluation of the booklet in Lalitpur and Palpa districts on August 24 and 30, respectively. NDI formed two groups of more than twenty-five randomly selected citizens (incorporating men and women as well as individuals from different castes, classes, ethnicities and education levels). Each member of the group filled out a questionnaire before distributing the booklet and then after its distribution, to assess his/her level of understanding of the information imparted from the booklet. The institute is now compiling the data and preparing a report.

Revising and Printing the Resource Manual and Booklet

The Institute revised the resource manual and booklet used during its existing program to incorporate feedback received at NDI's 15 district level forums. NDI has printed 2,000 copies of the revised resource manual and 30,000 copies of the revised voter awareness booklet to be used during the extension of the program. These resource manuals and booklets will be distributed to the participants in 15 district and five constituency level forums.

Conducting a Training of Trainers' Workshop

In collaboration with the Election Commission, on September 27 and 28, the Institute held a training of trainers program. The training workshop prepared the Election Commission staff, district election officers and NGO leaders to serve as resource persons for the 15 district and five constituency level forums.

Resource persons from the Election Commission, 20 district election officers and five NGO leaders attended the workshop. Throughout the two days, attendees participated in a variety of activities to familiarize them with effective training skills and the written materials. A session was also devoted to logistical preparations.

Planning to Hold District and Constituency Level Forums

NDI is currently working on the logistical preparations for the upcoming district and constituency level forums. The first forum is scheduled for Sunsari on October 8-9.

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective: Increase Nepalis knowledge of their electoral system; and

Objective: Increase Nepalis awareness of the basic norms of democracy and their human rights.

The activities described in the previous section reaped significant results. The Institute:

A. Civic Education:

- Made available a civics textbook and teacher's guide for the *Contemporary Society* course. These resources will serve as effective teaching tools long into the future to

help inform young people about how their government works and how to solve local problems using the democratic process.

- Helped distribute the Civics in Nepal textbook and teaching manual to at least 3,130 students and teachers around the country. The HSEB houses additional copies of the books and is distributing them to various schools.
- Worked successfully to increase the number of schools offering the civics course. When NDI began the program approximately five schools offered *Contemporary Society* as an elective. More than 40 schools are now requesting books for the course and intending to offer it.
- Provided training to 400 teachers and principals on effective ways to use the new course materials.
- Garnered support, among principals, teachers, donors and civic and political leaders, for civic education programming in Nepali schools. Widespread support for civic education is apparent through articles printed in local newspapers calling for increased civics training for Nepali youth throughout the country, the formation of a local NGO with the primary goal of promoting civic education, comments made by local leaders and donors praising NDI's program and requesting additional civics materials to use in development projects and requests from teachers and principals for more Civics in Nepal textbooks and training manuals and additional training workshops.
- Permitted participating organizations to share information and discuss ways to cooperate on civics programming.
- Built strong relationships with local organizations and government agencies involved in civics and education.

B. Voter Education

- Encouraged the Election Commission to be more engaged in outreach work to educate Nepalis about elections.
- Enabled 20 radio dramas to be broadcast on a weekly basis throughout this reporting period.
- Printed and distributed 1,500 copies of the resource manual to participants during the forums.
- Printed and distributed, through district election offices, 20,000 copies of the voter awareness booklet to political party workers, school libraries, students and the public.
- Built strong relationships with Election Commission officials. District election offices are being strengthened, increasing their profile in their communities and building good relations with civic and political leaders in their respective districts.

- Completed the remaining three district forums in Banke, Surkhet and Palpa.
- Revised and printed 2,000 copies of the resource manual and 30,000 copies of the voter awareness booklet.

V. EVALUATION/CONCLUSIONS

NDI's civic education program has been very successful. Through many meetings and the distribution of materials, NDI has helped to inspire interest and commitment among donors, government agencies and local NGOs for introducing civic education in formal and informal education throughout Nepal. There has been a great deal of positive feedback from Nepali academics, civic leaders, government representatives, teachers and principals on the usefulness of the civic education materials and the benefits of the teacher-training workshops. Schools are increasingly exposed *Contemporary Society*, which will lead to more students being introduced to civic education.

Simultaneously, by broadcasting radio shows and distributing voter awareness booklets, NDI is helping to increase the public's knowledge of the electoral system. NDI built close relationships with local level NGOs, political party leaders and district election officials during the implementation of the forums. District election offices are being strengthened, increasing their profile in their communities and building good relations with civic and political leaders.

IV. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

During the next quarter, NDI will continue to engage in civic and voter education activities. The Institute will conduct more teacher training workshops and print additional textbooks for distribution to students and teachers. NDI will also begin producing another cycle of radio shows and conducting discussion forums in 15 districts and 5 parliamentary constituencies.



Quarterly Report
NEPAL: CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION
USAID Grant No. 367-G-00-00097-00
October 1 to December 31, 2001

I. SUMMARY

Although many Nepalis had high expectations that democracy would bring prosperity and development to their country, they have come to realize that without an active and informed citizenry, democracy would be unresponsive to citizens' needs. The lack of confidence Nepalis feel about their political process is due, in part, to the majority's unfamiliarity with, and lack of participation in their democratic institutions. Since 1994, NDI has been participating in a broad national effort to increase Nepalis contribution to their governing bodies. In July 2000, with funding from USAID, NDI began civic and voter education programs in Nepal. These programs intend to inform Nepalis about how their government and electoral systems work as well as encourage them to get involved in their political process.

During this quarter, the Institute conducted a variety of civic education related activities, including: 1) preparing for and conducting additional teacher training workshops; and 2) distributing additional textbooks and teacher's guides;

The Institute also conducted voter education activities including: 1) completing the broadcasting of the first cycle and the writing and producing of the second cycle of radio shows; 2) holding district level forums; 3) printing and distribution additional resource manuals and voter education booklets.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Civic Education

Nepalis receive little, if any, civics training in school. As a result, the adult population in Nepal often lacks the necessary foundation for becoming active and informed citizens in their democracy. To address this gap in the education system, key leaders in Nepal's education community have been working to introduce civics training in school curriculums. As a result of their initiative, many schools around the country are now offering an elective civic education course entitled *Contemporary Society*. Unfortunately, many of the classes do not have materials

for the course, nor are the teachers familiar enough with civics to effectively teach the lessons to students.

In response, NDI worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Higher Secondary Education Board, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), academics and local civic and political leaders to produce a civic education textbook and teacher's guide for use in the *Contemporary Society* course. The Institute is also conducting teacher-training workshops to inform teaching professionals and civic and political leaders about the contents of the new materials as well as how to effectively use these materials to relay civic messages to students.

Upon completion of the activities proposed in the grant agreement, approximately \$40,000 remained. The Institute drafted a memo and budget for USAID outlining add-on civic education activities. These activities included seven additional teacher-training workshops in four locations, Nepalgunj, Dhangadhi, Bhairawa and Kathmandu, and included participants from 35 neighboring districts. Approximately 35 teachers and principals were expected to attend each workshop, for a total of 245. With the remaining funds, NDI also printed 2,000 more Civics in Nepal textbooks and 500 teaching manuals for distribution throughout the country.

B. Voter Education

Although some materials about Nepal's election laws and polling practices have already been produced and distributed in the country, they continue to target highly educated citizens. Approximately 70 percent of Nepalis are illiterate, and thus many of the existing materials are inaccessible to an adequate number of voters. As a result, the majority of citizens know very little about how the electoral process works or what role citizens can play in ensuring credible and fair elections. In addition, the Election Commission recently established 30 district offices. However, the staff in these district offices lacks visibility in the community and the citizenry require information about the role of their district offices and how they can utilize these offices' services. Furthermore, many of the local civic and political leaders are unaware of their responsibilities during the polling process. These circumstances have led to violations in the Election Code of Conduct, which is intended to prevent voter intimidation, vote buying, illicit fundraising and spending and electioneering at the polling stations.

Throughout the previous year, NDI, in collaboration with the Election Commission and district election offices, conducted district level forums in 15 districts, bringing together 500 political and civic leaders and election officials. The Institute also conducted an extensive voter education program to increase citizens' awareness of and participation in the electoral process. The Institute's activities targeted the public, and included reaching out to women and various ethnic groups, as well as district leaders involved in elections. Through material production and distribution, discussion forums and radio programs, NDI relayed messages about voters' right and responsibilities, election officials' duties, voter registration, the Election Code of Conduct and procedures for reporting election-related violations. The program also included general messages about the benefits of participating in the democratic process.

In July 2001, USAID provided NDI with a \$250,000 extension to conduct additional voter education activities. With this money, NDI will hold forums in 15 additional districts where the Election Commission has district offices. NDI will also hold workshops at the local level in five parliamentary constituencies in an effort to bring messages about voters' rights and responsibilities to more people.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Civic Education Program

Preparing for and Conducting Additional Teacher Training Workshops

During this quarter, NDI in cooperation with the Higher Secondary Education Board (HSEB) conducted six additional teacher-training workshops. NDI began by hiring a Logistics Coordinator in October to help in the preparations of the workshops. These workshops were originally scheduled to be held in Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj, Bhairawa, Bharatpur and Kathmandu. To prepare for the workshops, the HSEB assisted in selecting the training sites and identifying workshop participants. NDI also hired logistics assistants in each of the three locations to help in delivering the invitations, confirming attendance, securing a caterer and fielding questions from participants.

NDI held the first workshop in Dhangadhi from November 24-25, 2001 and there was a large participant turnout. Unfortunately, the rest of the workshops had to be postponed as a result of the King's calling a State of Emergency. Due to security reasons, NDI decided to hold the remaining workshops to Kathmandu. Workshops were held in Kathmandu from December 11 to 14 for participants from Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Gulmi and Argakhanchi, from December 19 to 22 for participants from Makwanpur Nawalparasi and Chitwan and from December 26 to 27, 2001 for participants from Dhading, Ramechhap, Sindupalchowk, Dolakha, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu. Approximately 33 teachers and principals attended each workshop.

During the course of the workshops the trainers used the training manual and were quite effective in conveying the messages to participants. They were interactive workshops where the participants were asked to do role-plays and given time to write and teach their own lesson plans and develop effective questioning techniques to ask in class. Participants were made familiar with the Civics in Nepal textbook and teachers' guide and learned ways to teach the books in an interesting way to students. NDI also distributed the textbook and teacher's guide to participants and had them fill-out a pre and post workshop questionnaire that NDI will use in its program evaluation.

Distributing Additional Textbooks and Teacher's Guides

To date, NDI has printed approximately 10,000 Civics in Nepal textbooks and 1,300 teacher's guides. In addition to providing these books to participants at the workshops, the HSEB is distributing them to schools around the country. Principals and teachers come to the HSEB from around the nation to pick-up the books for their classes. So far, the HSEB has

distributed more than 3,130 copies of the textbook to schools from different regions of the country.

B. Voter Education

Broadcasting the First Cycle and Writing and Producing the Second Cycle of Radio Shows

The Institute completed broadcasting the first cycle of radio episodes of five-minute mini dramas throughout the country in Nepali and in nine local languages on October 7.

Following the completion of the first cycle of radio dramas, the Institute, in collaboration with a professional radio consultant, produced the second cycle of radio programs and held several meetings with Election Commission officials to discuss the messages to be conveyed. Two popular male TV artists and three female artists provided the voices for the mini dramas. The Institute produced 10 radio dramas of 15-minute duration each in Nepali language and submitted the scripts and tapes to the Election Commission for approval. NDI is planning to broadcast these shows through Radio Nepal and various popular FM stations throughout the country.

Holding District Level Forums

Following the training of trainers' workshop, NDI conducted district level forums in Sunsari, Jhapa and Ilam districts. The Institute organized the forums in collaboration with the Election Commission and the district election offices, which assisted in selecting locations, delivering invitations and identifying participants. More than 35 participants attended each of the three forums. Two resource persons from the Central Election Commission and the District Election Office led the discussions in all districts. During all forums, NDI received sincere support for our efforts to improve the electoral process.

In all three districts, participants included local level civic and political leaders, district and local government officials, the district election officer and the staff of the district election office. The District Chief Judge, the District Development Chair, the Chief District Officer, and the Mayor were invited to attend the inaugural session of the district forums, and most of these officials did attend in each district. These officials made brief presentations to welcome participants and thanked NDI for conducting the program. The officials, as well as participants, highly praised the written materials used during the forums.

The major political parties were all represented at the forums, and this will continue to be an ongoing objective for the Institute during upcoming activities. Women's participation reached 30 percent in Sunsari, 51 percent in Ilam and 57 percent in Jhapa.

Due to the King's declaration of a State of Emergency, and after consultation with USAID and the Election Commission, the Institute postponed scheduled forums in December. The Institute, however, moved forward with forums for Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts, given the relative security of the Kathmandu valley area. These forums were well attended by participants in both the districts. NDI was pleased to welcome USAID Cognizant Technical

Officers, Bishnu Adhikari and Netra Sharma to the Kathmandu forum. Similarly, the Institute was pleased to welcome Bishnu Adhikari, Anita Mahat and Madhuri Rana Singh, all of USAID, to the Bhaktapur forum.

Printing and Distributing Additional Resource Manuals and Voter Education Booklets

At the request of district level participants and the Election Commission, the Institute printed and distributed an additional 1,500 copies of the resource manual during this reporting period. To date, the Institute printed a total of 5,000 copies of the resource manual and 50,000 copies of the voter education booklet. NDI distributed resource manuals and voter education booklets to all forum participants. The Institute is also distributing the booklets through the Election Commission and district election offices, and is also providing them to political and civic leaders for distribution. District Election Officers are also distributing booklets during seminars organized by various NGOs in their respective districts.

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective: Increase Nepalis knowledge of their electoral system; and

Objective: Increase Nepalis awareness of the basic norms of democracy and their human rights.

The activities described in the previous section produced the following results. The Institute:

A. Civic Education:

- Made available a civics textbook and teacher's guide for the *Contemporary Society* course. These resources will serve as effective teaching tools long into the future to help inform young people about how their government works and how to solve local problems using the democratic process.
- Helped distribute the Civics in Nepal textbook and teaching manual to at least 3,130 students and teachers around the country. The HSEB houses additional copies of the books and is distributing them to various schools.
- Worked successfully to increase the number of schools offering the civics course. When NDI began the program approximately five schools offered *Contemporary Society* as an elective. More than 40 schools are now requesting books for the course and intending to offer it.
- Provided training to 600 teachers and principals on effective ways to use the new course materials.
- Garnered support, among principals, teachers, donors and civic and political leaders, for civic education programming in Nepali schools. Widespread support for civic education

is apparent through articles printed in local newspapers calling for increased civics training for Nepali youth throughout the country, the formation of a local NGO with the primary goal of promoting civic education, comments made by local leaders and donors praising NDI's program and requesting additional civics materials to use in development projects and requests from teachers and principals for more Civics in Nepal textbooks and training manuals and additional training workshops.

- Facilitated participating organizations to share information and discuss ways to cooperate on civics programming.
- Built strong relationships with local organizations and government agencies involved in civics and education.

B. Voter Education

- Completed the first cycle of radio dramas and began production of the second cycle.
- Continued to build strong relationships with Election Commission officials at the central and district levels. District election offices are strengthening in capacity, increasing their profile in their communities and building good relationships with civic and political leaders in their respective districts.
- Successfully completed district level forums in Sunsari, Jhapa, Ilam, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts and distributed resource manuals at these forums.
- Distributed voter education booklets to the general public.

V. EVALUATION/CONCLUSIONS

Through many meetings and the distribution of materials, NDI has helped to inspire interest and commitment among donors, government agencies and local NGOs for introducing civic education in formal and informal education throughout Nepal. There has been a great deal of positive feedback from Nepali academics, civic leaders, government representatives, teachers and principals on the usefulness of the civic education materials and the benefits of the teacher-training workshops. Schools are increasingly exposed Contemporary Society, which will lead to more students being introduced to civic education.

NDI worked to increase the public's knowledge of the electoral system by facilitating the development of election education activities run by the Election Commission. By broadcasting radio shows and distributing voter awareness booklets, NDI is helping to increase the public's knowledge of the electoral system. NDI built close relationships with local level NGOs, political party leaders, and district election officials during the implementation of the forums. District election offices are being strengthened, increasing their profile in their communities and building good relations with civic and political leaders. The Institute is continuing to receive positive feedback from forum participants, and also receives praise from forum participants and the general public for the materials and requests for additional copies.

IV. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

During the next quarter, NDI plans to continue working in the field of civic education. The Institute is also looking at the feasibility of conducting one more workshop for participants from Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Surkhet, which was postponed for security reasons.

During the next quarter, NDI will conduct voter education district and constituency level forums and will start airing the second cycle of radio dramas.

NDI is continuously monitoring the national security situation and will continue consulting with the Election Commission, district level officials, the US Embassy and USAID and taking appropriate security measures.



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